

blade will also move vertically as the eccentric axle presses against the top and bottom of the axle aperture. A design that allows the blade to be moved vertically during adjustment throws off the alignment between the back of the tang and the liner lock, creating point contact rather than contact spread over two parallel surfaces. Again, point contact has a higher incidence of failure under shock impacts and prolonged wear.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 4, with the following paragraph:

B² Further, the invention relates to a folding knife with a handle having a front end and a back end. A blade is rotatably coupled to the handle by a blade axle. A liner lock is coupled to the handle and has an aperture therethrough at a point distal the blade axle. An eccentric adjustment mechanism is rotatably coupled to the handle and the liner lock through the aperture. The eccentric adjustment mechanism includes a first segment with a first axis of rotation and a second segment with a second axis of rotation. The first segment engages the handle and the second segment engages the liner lock, whereby when the eccentric adjustment mechanism is rotated the liner lock is moved with respect to the handle.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 15, with the following paragraph:

B³ Further, the invention relates to a folding knife with the handle having a first handle side and a second handle side. A blade is rotatably coupled to the handle by a blade axle, and a liner lock is coupled to the handle. An aperture is defined in the liner lock at a point distal the blade axle, and the aperture has a top, a bottom, a front, and a back. An eccentric adjustment mechanism is rotatably coupled to the handle and the liner lock through the aperture, and the eccentric adjustment mechanism includes a first segment with a first axis of rotation and a second segment with a second axis of rotation. The first segment engages the handle and the second segment engages the liner lock. When the eccentric adjustment mechanism is rotated, the liner lock is moved with respect to the handle. The aperture is sized such that the second segment does not make contact with the top or bottom when rotated.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 29, with the following paragraph:

B⁴ A further embodiment of the invention relates to a folding knife having a handle with a front end and a back end. A blade is rotatably coupled to the handle by a blade axle, and a liner lock is coupled to the handle. A notch is defined in the liner lock at an end distal the blade axle, and an eccentric adjustment mechanism is rotatably coupled to the handle. The eccentric adjustment mechanism includes a first segment with a first axis of rotation and a second segment with a second axis of rotation. The first segment engages the handle and the second segment engages the notch, whereby when the eccentric adjustment mechanism is rotated the liner lock is moved toward the front end.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6, line 9, with the following paragraph:

B⁵ Further, the invention relates to a method of assembling a folding knife having a handle, a blade, a liner lock, and an eccentric adjustment mechanism. The method includes the steps of placing the blade into a first side of the handle, and placing the liner lock into the first side of the handle. The method further includes installing the eccentric adjustment mechanism such that it is engaged with the liner lock, and opening the blade into its operative position. The method further includes adjusting the position of the liner lock by rotating the eccentric adjustment mechanism until the liner lock is snug against the blade.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 19, with the following paragraph:

B⁶ The handle 14 has a first side 50 and a second side 52, each having a front 51 and a back 53. The two sides 50, 52 are attached by the blade axle 18 and a rear axle 54. An exemplary axle configuration is shown in FIG. 1 and can include a screw 66 that threads into a threaded bore 64 in axle 18 such that the handle sides 50, 52 can be tightened together. The handle sides 50, 52 have a front aperture 62 that receives blade axle 18. A cavity 56 is configured to house both the liner lock 16 and the folded blade 12. A clip 58 can be attached to the handle 14 with a clip screw 60.